

HOUSE No. 1494

By Mr. Dempsey of Haverhill, petition of Brian S. Dempsey and Steven A. Baddour relative to reserving beds in nursing homes for certain residents during leaves of absence. Elder Affairs.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO RESERVING BEDS IN NURSING HOMES FOR RESIDENTS DURING CERTAIN LEAVES OF ABSENCE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

- 1 Section 14A of chapter 118E of the General Laws is hereby
2 amended by adding the following paragraphs:
3 In the event that a nursing facility resident who is a MassHealth
4 recipient enters a hospital, the division shall pay to preserve his or
5 her bed in the nursing facility for a period of up to 10 days. The
6 division shall reimburse the nursing facility for the medical leave
7 of absence, which shall include an observation stay in a hospital
8 in excess of twenty-four hours, at the recipient's pre-absence rate
9 during the medical leave and upon the resident's return.
10 In the event that a nursing facility resident who is a MassHealth
11 recipient leaves the nursing facility for non-medical reasons, the
12 division shall pay to preserve his or her bed in the facility for a
13 period of up to 15 days. The division shall reimburse the nursing
14 facility for the non-medical leave of absence at the recipient's pre-
15 absence rate during the non-medical leave and upon the resident's
16 return.